

December 2005
NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol
Major Robert Wideman

Overview

The Northern Command experienced a moderate increase in the number of total crashes investigated in December as compared to the same month the previous year, and a substantial increase in the number of crashes compared to last month. Weather became an increased factor during December and road construction projects on some of the most heavily traveled roadways continue to have an impact on the volume of crashes.

Significant amounts of training hours contributed to a reduction in enforcement efforts as compared to the previous month. Enforcement activity increased, however, as compared to the same month last year. Commercial Enforcement activity levels were down slightly as compared to last month but are ahead of levels reported during the same month last year. The Commercial Enforcement activity levels are well ahead of pace to meet region goals for federal fiscal year 2006.

During the month of December, many Troopers gave of their own time to support community based charitable activities such as Shop with a Cop or the Salvation Army. I'm proud of the civic minded spirit displayed during the holiday season.

Two Troopers received awards for excellence in the fight against drunk driving. Troopers Mike Edgell and Eddie Bowers were recognized for their outstanding achievements in detecting and arresting impaired drivers. I commend their hard work and perseverance.

On the last day of December, many communities in the Northern Command area experienced substantial flooding. The weather caused many road closures and crashes. The Troopers worked long hours and responded to hundreds of calls for service, performing well in a time of community need.

Content:

Crash Analysis
Field Enforcement
 Traffic
 Commercial
 Air Operations
Administrative Services
 Front Office
 Communications
 Public Information

Published
01-06-2006

NORTHERN COMMAND

CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	December 2005		December 2004	% Change		November 2005	% Change
Total Crashes	485		446	8.7%		408	18.9%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	336		291	15.5%		305	10.2%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	146		150	-2.7%		101	44.6%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	3		5	-40.0%		2	50.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	18		12	50.0%		19	-5.3%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	4		6	-33.3%		2	100.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	3		1	200.0%		1	200.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0		3	-300.0%		0	0.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1		1	0.0%		1	0.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	20		17	17.6%		13	53.8%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	17		12	41.7%		8	112.5%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	3		5	-40.0%		5	-40.0%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.6%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 3.7%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 75.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 4.1%

CRASH ANALYSIS:

Overall crashes were up 18.9% this month compared to last month and up 8.7% from the same month last year. There was a significant increase of 44.6% in injury crashes when comparing last month but a 2.7% drop when comparing last year.

Continued road construction in the "Spaghetti Bowl," North McCarran/Clear Acre area and in Carson City continue to create significant traffic problems in the Reno and Carson City areas with major congestion occurring during the commuter traffic hours.

Fatal crashes increased by 1 from 2 last month to 3 this month. When comparing last year to this year the drop was from 5 crashes to 3 crashes. There were 2 fewer deaths resulting from those 3 crashes when compared to last year.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	December 2005		December 2004	% Change		November 2005	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	18		12	50.0%		18	0.0%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	76		87	-12.6%		107	-29.0%
Other Arrests	341		380	-10.3%		416	-18.0%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	168		176	-4.5%		200	-16.0%
Speed violations	1495		1435	4.2%		1899	-21.3%
Hazardous moving violations	864		758	14.0%		805	7.3%
Occupant restraint violations *	311		260	19.6%		317	-1.9%
Total violations [above violations included]	4973		4504	10.4%		5447	-8.7%
Commercial Enforcement							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	41		12	241.7%		100	-59.0%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	57		21	171.4%		101	-43.6%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	776		606	28.1%		843	-7.9%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	255		89	186.5%		341	-25.2%
Total safety violations -- repair order	2103		767	174.2%		2784	-24.5%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	51		14	264.3%		120	-57.5%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	38		15	153.3%		92	-58.7%
Total school buses inspected	0		59	-5900.0%		42	-4200.0%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	0		21	-2100.0%		9	-900.0%
Total trucks weighed	145		94	54.3%		382	-62.0%
Total overweight citations	38		3	1166.7%		62	-38.7%
Total dyed fuel inspections	341		378	-9.8%		544	-37.3%
Total dyed fuel citations	1		0	100.0%		0	100.0%

* Seat belt and child restraint

** Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

FIELD ENFORCEMENT:

Overall enforcement was down 8.7% overall compared to last month but was up by 10.4% compared to the same time last year. All categories of enforcement except hazardous moving violations were down from last month. DUI arrests remained steady at 18. However, all cited violation categories have increased when compared to last year.



Trooper Mike Edgell (left) and Trooper Eddie Bowers received awards from MADD for their outstanding DUI arrest records.

RENO URBAN TRAFFIC

During the month of December, the Reno urban troopers investigated a total of 290 crashes. This was a 33% increase over last month and a 17% increase over the same period last year. Some of the increase can be attributed to recent rain and snow storms. Weather related crashes accounted for 86, or 29% of the total crashes. Of the 290 total crashes, 199 were property damage and 91 were injury. Of the injury crashes, 65 or 71% were claimed injuries only. The majority of crashes or 32% (94) occurred between the hours of 3:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. The second highest period was between noon and 2:00 P.M. at 19% (57), followed by 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. with 14% (43). Total crashes by day was Friday 63, Thursday 47, Saturday 45, Wednesday 44, Monday 35 and Tuesday and Saturday, 27 each.

Swing shift investigated the majority of the crashes with 137, followed by day shift with 98 and graveyard 54. Swing shift averaged 12.45 crashes per trooper. Day shift averaged 8.9 and graveyard averaged 6 per trooper. Rear-end collisions continue to account for the majority of crashes at 43%.

The total number of urban trooper positions fell to (29) in December. This is the same number as December, 2004. Part of the reduction is due to a trooper being temporarily assigned to the training academy, a trooper being re-assigned to the Dignitary Protection Detail, a re-assigned trooper has not yet reported, a trooper resigned, a trooper's orders were rescinded and two troopers remain on active duty military assignments.

Total violation enforcement activity dropped by 13% over last month, but only by 3% from December 2004. Part of the decrease in enforcement activity can be attributed to an increase in training time due to the division transitioning to a new firearm. The time available for enforcement was further hampered by an increase in accidents and motorist assists due to bad weather and flooding.

CARSON/TAHOE/MINDEN

Injury crashes in December decreased by 21.3%, fatal crashes remained the same and property damage crashes decreased by 8.0% when comparing December of 2005, to December of 2004. Total crashes increased by 13.8% from last month with over 40% of the crashes being weather related this month.

Overall field enforcement was up 41% in December 2005, when compared to December of 2004, but dropped slightly when compared to last month. DUI arrests as a result DUI involved crashes were down 75% compared to last month and were down by 60% from last year. DUI arrests prior to a crash were up by 25% compared to last year and down 6.3% compared to last month.

One fatal crash occurred within NHP jurisdiction, on US Highway 50 in the Moundhouse area, speed is suspected as a contributing factor in this collision. Directed enforcement was scheduled in this area in an attempt to slow the traffic down during the commute period of the day. Scheduling allowed for two sessions of Directed Enforcement in December for a total of approximately 4 hours. The other two fatal crashes investigated were in allied agency jurisdictions.

Enforcement statistics showed 77 traffic stops, 50 citations issued with a total of 68 violations charged. One person was arrested for a warrant and booked for that charge as well as two additional charges. Additional Directed Enforcement will be scheduled for the month of January and beyond.

Construction continues on the Carson City Freeway with the predicted opening in late January. This opening will no doubt increase the amount of crashes in the area of the new freeway and access ramps. Additional patrol will be directed to those areas.

Area officers worked the last day of the month mostly on flood related issues.

Overall the work and activity of the Carson/Minden/Tahoe troops is good, additional improvements are still possible and will be encouraged.

FERNLEY/FALLON

There were 56 crashes occurring within the rural area within the month of December. Winter storms caused several weather related crashes that were handled throughout the area. Of the crashes, 4 were vehicle vs. animal crashes occurring within the Fallon area. The crash reduction compared to last month and last year is attributed to the schedule change within the rural area. Shifts are now overlapped during high accident times between noon and 4:00 P.M.

The District Sergeants will continue to monitor crash times, crash areas, and adjust staffing accordingly to decrease carnage on public highways.

The District's productivity decreased slightly from last month, but remains above last year. The decrease is attributed to inclement weather, sick leave, recertification training, and the Sig Sauer transition course.

Staffing levels continue to fluctuate as well as the productivity generated, due to sick leave, inclement weather and other calls for service. These calls and individual productivity levels will be continually monitored and addressed by district Sergeants to ensure compliance with shift and area averages.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

The Commercial Enforcement Section is prepared to meet or exceed the required goals and objectives as stated in the Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (CVSP). At the completion of the first quarter of the Federal Fiscal Year, the Northern Command Commercial Section was ahead of its year to date goals in Level I inspections, Level II/III inspections, Level II/III enforcement inspections and in Secondary Roadway weight enforcement.

The Commercial Enforcement Section's CVSI's finished the fall school bus inspection process ahead of schedule in November, so there were no inspections done in December. The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section will continue to monitor the unacceptable out-of-service rate on buses at the Washoe County School District. The CVSI's activities will now be aimed toward tow trucks and completing Compliance Reviews (CR's). CVSI's are also assisting in tracking the commercial truck crash data in the Northern Command for 2005.

The Commercial Enforcement Section again assisted the Southern Command with the Las Vegas New Year's Eve operation. Twenty personnel from the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section participated in this event. Northern Command personnel were stationed at the Railroad Pass and Sloan check-site locations. During the three-day check-sites, Northern Command personnel completed more than 350 inspections and screened over 1400 commercial vehicles.

Finally, scale teams will be utilized throughout the region in an effort to locate vehicles operating in excess of the allowable weight. The Commercial Enforcement Section received new Hanni scales in November. These new scales will assist the scale teams with overweight enforcement in the Northern Command.

Upcoming Events:

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section will continue with its Strike-Force efforts in the Southern Command. These efforts are designed to assist in the accident reduction of commercial motor vehicles in the Las Vegas area. The Northern Region will send 4 commercial personnel to Las Vegas in February. Due to NAS training, the Northern Command will not participate in strike force activities in January.

There will be a NAS Part "A" and Part "B" class held at the Reno NHP office in January and February of 2006. Five traffic personnel will be attending the Part "A" class. The Reno Police Department and two out-of-state agencies will also send personnel to these classes.

AIR OPERATIONS

The Northern Command aircraft flew 57.2 hours during December. 12 speed enforcement missions were scheduled, 6 were flown. One mission was cancelled for an out of State prisoner extradition, one was cancelled for an in State prisoner transport, three were cancelled due to bad weather and one was cancelled due to a lack of available manpower on the ground. Three missions each were flown in the Northern and Central commands.

Total enforcement activity was 169 violations.

Six prisoner transports were conducted during the month. Included in the total was one prisoner extradition from El Centro, Ca. to Reno.

The installation of two NHP radios in our newest plane, N7GG, has been completed.

After departing Carson City on a prisoner transport on 7GG, there was a malfunction of the landing gear retraction system. Rather than repair the system, it was decided to perform an FAA approved modification to the landing gear doors. This modification greatly reduces the number of hydraulically activated moving parts and is expected to reduce maintenance costs and the likelihood of another gear malfunction. The cost of this modification, approximately \$7000.00 will be split equally between NHP and NDOT.

Total Hours Flown	2005	2004	Change
Time over sites.....	14.6	10.5	39 %
Time enroute to sites.....	13.0	2.8	364 %
Prisoner Transports.....(6)	26.4	(2) 11.9	122 %
Pilot Currency.....	2.4		100 %
Maintenance.....	.8		100 %
ATL murder suspect w/NDI		10.8	
Total:	57.2	36.0	59 %
Enforcement Missions Flown:	6	4	50 %
Total Enforcement Activity:	169	177	- 5 %
Activity Per Flight Hour:	11.6	16.9	-31%

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES					
FRONT OFFICE	Dec 05	Dec 04	% Change	Nov 05	% Change
Accident Reports Processed	469	478	-1.88%	402	16.67%
Arrest Reports Processed	168	159	5.66%	173	-2.89%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	22	6	266.67%	14	57.14%
Office Accident Reports Taken	60	40	50.00%	34	76.47%
COURT / WARRANT					
Warrants Received	601	581	3.44%	505	19.01%
Warrants Entered	99	241	-58.92%	136	-27.21%
Warrants Cleared	387	514	-24.71%	424	-8.73%
Warrants Validated	163	300	-45.67%	174	-6.32%
Citations Processed	3109	2430	27.9%	3735	-16.76%
COMMUNICATION CENTER					
Radio Transmissions	98661	90638	+8.9%	102678	-3.9%
CAD incidents	11935	9288	+28.5%	13049	-8.5%

FRONT OFFICE

Two Administrative Assistant II positions are still vacant. One of the past vacancies will be occupied by a transfer from the Division of Parole and Probation office's Fugitive Unit. The second position has two candidates currently in Backgrounds.

The Region's film clerk reports a decrease of 32% in the number of photos processed.

Overall sick leave decreased this period by 8%, but compensatory leave increased. Annual leave decreased by 24%. With this, overall hours worked increased by 7%. Overtime increased by 62% as a result of the vacant positions and annual leave being taken to be within the 240 allowed hours.

Comparisons to last month include accident reports processed increasing by 17%. Arrest reports reported a 3% decrease. Incident reports increased by 57%, while office reports saw the largest increase by 76%. Sixty office reports were taken this reporting period.

The goal for the administrative section is to complete training for the transferred AAI in Court Warrants.

COURT WARRANTS

Citations processed decreased by 17. Warrant entry is current through the first of September. Part of September, October, and November are in arrears for base entry. With the vacant AAI position, this will continue to back up for at least one more month. The AAI position currently stationed in warrants will continue to serve in that section, but as a trainer to the new AAI transfer. Interviews were conducted December 16th and 19th, 2005, yielding 3 backgrounds and possible candidates.

The backlogged citations from the end of February are being finished (March and part of April are already entered), two clerks have entered approximately 200 citations from December as well.

There was a 19% increase in new warrants received. The main AAI in Warrants spent two days making calls for the interview list and finished an audit questionnaire for the Administrative Lieutenant. The Court/Warrants officer has been on vacation for two and a half weeks. The AAI has been covering his position (with the exception of actual transports). She performed 15 court runs which included returning 183 served subpoenas.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communication's center currently has two vacant Public Safety Dispatcher I positions and one PSD IV position. However, with 3 personnel actively in training, the Center remains effectively down 6 positions. The 2 PSD I positions will hopefully be filled in January 2006.

Total work hours lost increased by 85.5% since last month, primarily due to an increase in annual leave, sick leave, and leave without pay use. It increased by 12% from the previous year due to the same issues.

Compensatory overtime decreased by -36.6% when compared to last month. The decrease is primarily in the lack of personnel to claim time. Overtime as a whole increased by 29.8% when compared to the same period last year and increased by 20.3% when compared to last month. The increase from last year and last month are primarily due to the increased loss of personnel. The coverage of vacant positions accounted for 49% of the overtime followed by 28.9% for annual leave and 5.7% for the emergency storms and flooding over the New Year's weekend.

Radio transmissions increased by 8.9% over this period last year and decreased 3.9% since last month. CAD incidents have increased by 28.5% over last year and decreased 8.5% since last month. The primary reason for the increase in transmissions is likely due to the new arrival of field personnel as well as increased radio use by allied agencies. The increase in incidents is primarily due to the increase in population reporting more and more information to DPS.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

As we approached the end of 2005, the public relations office continued to stay busy and provide the community with a variety of information. Trooper Allen assisted Kimberly Evans with a basic media relations class to the new cadets at the DPS academy. This 4 hour block of instruction enlightened the new employees on the function the Department has with the media and the community. Although the new employees will have very little involvement with the media directly, they were shown how arrests and significant events throughout their careers can lead to news stories by informing their public information officers.

The Northern Command participated in the annual "turkey drop" for the Salvation Army. Local public safety personnel and media representatives received frozen turkeys at a given location to assist the needy with their holiday meals.

The Highway Patrol as well as Parole and Probation divisions assisted the Salvation Army this month with the 7th annual law enforcement bell ringing event. Uniformed law enforcement personnel from the community volunteered their time by raising funds by ringing the bell at area Wal-Mart stores. We handed out stickers to the kids and gunlocks to those adults who requested one. The \$1,550.00 we raised was the most monies in the competition and we will be receiving the traveling plaque for our efforts. I will be sure to have it proudly displayed at each of the Reno offices during the 2006 calendar year.



Trooper Scott Simon (left) and Trooper Matt Steinhardt
ring the bell for the Salvation Army.

Traffic safety presentations were also given to the Sierra Pacific Power Company and International Gaming Technology personnel during the month with a total attendance of approximately 260 people. Winter driving tips, seatbelts, child restraints, hazardous moving violations and DUI's were some of the main topics at all of the presentations.

The NHP information officers had their quarterly meeting with Kim Evans with current information and programs shared from the 3 regions, as well as a discussion about the Director's policy on information being released.

We are continuing with the weekly radio show "Trooper Talk" which can be heard on Wednesday's at 5:00 pm on AM 1400. Additionally we are doing live traffic reports with 94.5 FM Tuesday's through Friday's at 6:00 and 8:30 am. Lastly, Trooper Allen will be away in January and February 2006 to attend a military academy and Trooper Eddie Bowers is expected to be temporarily assigned to assist the media.

Department of Public Safety
Nevada Highway Patrol
Northern Command

357 Hammill Lane
Reno, Nevada 89511
(775) 688-2500

Major Robert Wideman
Deputy Chief, Northern Command

Captain Jacquelyn Sandage
Administration

Captain Scott Jackson
Operations

Lieutenant Jerry Seevers
Administration

Lieutenant Roger Vind
Fernley/Fallon

Lieutenant John Stewart
Reno Urban

Lieutenant William Bainter
Commercial/SIRT

Lieutenant David Asp
Carson City/Minden/Lake Tahoe